# AI:10

**GET INSIGHTS ON AI UNDER 10 MINUTES**

## WHAT'S HOT

# HOW THE ROBOTS ALONGSIDE US WILL MAKE THE WORLD A BETTER PLACE

*An Interview on*
### SOCIAL INNOVATION
*- Marzida Mohd Noor*

## HEADLINE NEWS IN A FLASH

- Apple Acquires AI Music Startup That Can Generate Dynamic Soundtracks
- PlayStation's Polyphony Studio Will Showcase Later this Week a 'Breakthrough AI Project'
- A New Trick Lets Artificial Intelligence See in 3D
- Meet the AI-Controlled Drone That Flies Faster Than Human Pilots
- Scientists are developing interactive holograms you can touch and feel
- Tim Cook Just Revealed Apple's Plan for Expansion into AR/VR. It's the Opposite of Facebook's

### SECTOR FOCUS

# 4 FINANCIAL TECHNOLOGIES CHANGING HOW WE HANDLE OUR ASSETS

# HOW THE ROBOTS ALONGSIDE US WILL MAKE THE WORLD A BETTER PLACE

*Recent advances in artificial intelligence (AI) are leading to the emergence of a new class of robot. These are machines that go beyond the traditional bots running preprogrammed motions; these are robots that can see, learn, think, and react to their surroundings.*

*While we may not personally witness or interact with robots directly in our daily lives, there will be a day over the next five years in which our households and workplaces are dependent upon the role of robots to run smoothly. Here are a few standout examples:*

## ROBOTS THAT DELIVER MEDICAL SUPPLIES TO EXTREMELY REMOTE PLACES

After spending months in Africa and South America talking to medical and disaster relief providers, Keenan Wyrobek foresaw how AI-powered drone technology could make a positive impact. He started Zipline, which provides drones to handle important and dangerous deliveries. Now shipping one ton of products a day, the company is helping communities in need by using robots to accomplish critical deliveries (they're even delivering in parts of the US).

## ROBOTS THAT AUTOMATE RECYCLING

Recycling is one of the most important activities we can do for a healthier planet. However, it's a massive undertaking. Consider that each human being produces almost 5 lbs of waste a day and there are 7.8 billion of us. The real challenge comes in with second sorting—the separation process applied once the easy-to-sort materials have been filtered. Matanya Horowitz sat down with me to explain how AMP Robotics helps facilities across the globe save and reuse valuable materials that are worth billions of dollars but were traditionally lost to landfills.

## ROBOTS THAT HANDLE DANGEROUS, REPETITIVE WAREHOUSE TASKS

Marc Segura of ABB, a robotics firm started in 1988, shared real stories from warehouses across the globe in which robots are managing jobs that have high-accident rates or long-term health consequences for humans. With robots that are strong enough to lift one-ton cars with just one arm, and other robots that can build delicate computer chips (a task that can cause long-term vision impairments for a person), there are a whole range of machines handling tasks not fit for humans.

## ROBOTS TO HELP NURSES ON THE FRONTLINES

Long before covid-19 started calling our attention to the overworked nature of being a healthcare worker, Andrea Thomas of Diligent Robots noticed the issue. She spoke with me about the inspiration for designing Moxi, a nurse helper. Now being used in Dallas hospitals, the robots help clinical staff with tasks that don't involve interacting with patients. Nurses have reported lowered stress levels as mundane errands like supply stocking is automatically handled. Moxi is even adding a bit of cheer to patients' days as well.

## ROBOTS THAT RUN INDOOR FARMS

Picking and sorting the harvest is the most time-sensitive and time-consuming task on a farm. Getting it right can make a massive difference to the crop's return. AppHarvest's Josh Lessing built the world's first "cross-crop" AI, Virgo, that learned how to pick all different types of produce. Virgo can switch between vastly different shapes, densities, and growth scenarios, meaning one day it can pick tomatoes, the next cucumbers, and after that, strawberries. Virgo currently operates at the AppHarvest greenhouses in Kentucky to grow non-GMO, chemical-free produce.

## THE ROBOT FUTURE HAS ALREADY BEGUN

Collaborating with software-driven co-workers is no longer the future; it's now. Perhaps you've already seen some examples. You'll be seeing a lot more in the decade to come./

*Source: qz.com*
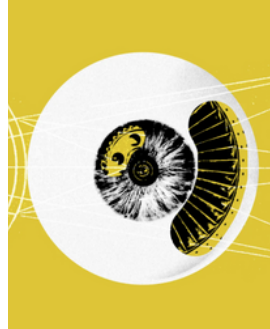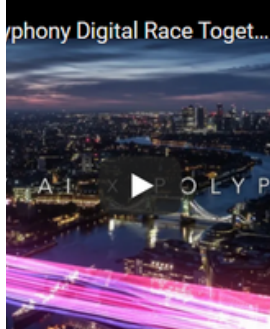
HEADLINE NEWS IN A FLASH

## APPLE ACQUIRES AI MUSIC STARTUP THAT CAN GENERATE DYNAMIC SOUNDTRACKS

Apple has acquired AI Music, a startup that uses artificial intelligence to generate personalized soundtracks and adaptive music, reports Bloomberg. AI Music developed an "Infinite Music Engine" meant to create bespoke audio solutions for marketers, publishers, fitness professionals, and creative agencies. The technology is able to generate dynamic soundtracks that change based on user interaction. Music during a workout, for example, could change based on the wearer's heartbeat, adjusting to workout intensity. AI Music described it as a feature that could allow advertisers to create audio that would match user context, like mood./

*Source: macrumors*

## PLAYSTATION'S POLYPHONY STUDIO WILL SHOWCASE LATER THIS WEEK A 'BREAKTHROUGH AI PROJECT'

Sony has had its hands within artificial intelligence efforts since the launch and establishment of the company's own AI subdivision in April of 2020. These AI projects have long been intended to enhance PlayStation endeavors, fueling imagination and growth within gaming as well as enhance the way robotics systems themselves can be utilized. The four main projects under Sony's AI arm are specifically named as follows: gastronomy, gaming, imaging and sensing, and AI ethics. In a mere 24-second long YouTube video made available today, Sony announced the forthcoming AI project as a collaborative effort with PlayStation's Polyphony, the studio behind Gran Turismo. Aside from the "Sony AI x Polyphony" tagline and a "Race Together" text, there was little additional information in the subtle tease. Sony relays that the project will be announced more in full soon./

*Source: techtimes*

## A NEW TRICK LETS ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE SEE IN 3D

The technique has the potential to shake up video games, virtual reality, robotics, and autonomous driving. Some experts believe it might even help machines perceive and reason about the world in a more intelligent —or at least humanlike—way. The new approach involves using a neural network to capture and generate 3D imagery from a few 2D snapshots, a technique dubbed "neural rendering." It arose from the merging of ideas circulating in computer graphics and AI, but interest exploded in April 2020 when researchers at UC Berkeley and Google showed that a neural network could capture a scene photorealistically in 3D simply by viewing several 2D images of it. That algorithm exploits the way light travels through the air and performs computations that calculate the density and color of points in 3D space./

*Source: wired*

## MEET THE AI-CONTROLLED DRONE THAT FLIES FASTER THAN HUMAN PILOTS

Human drone pilots have always been more efficient than their robotic counterparts — until now. Researchers at the University of Zurich created an algorithm that finds the quickest path for a drone navigating a 3D racecourse in an indoor flight arena. The algorithm beat two professional drone pilots' times, according to a study published in Science Robotics this past July. And it can replicate that ideal route exactly, which is something humans can't do. There's still one way that we have the upper hand over machines, though: Humans can think on the fly, while the algorithm currently needs about an hour to calculate its trajectory. But if that problem can be solved, we may one day see algorithm-controlled drones delivering our packages./

*Source: discovermagazine*

## SCIENTISTS ARE DEVELOPING INTERACTIVE HOLOGRAMS YOU CAN TOUCH AND FEEL

University of Glasgow's bendable electronics and sensing technologies research group have now developed a system of holograms of people using "aerohaptics," creating feelings of touch with jets of air. Those jets of air deliver a sensation of touch on people's fingers, hands and wrists. In time, this could be developed to allow you to meet a virtual avatar of a colleague on the other side of the world and really feel their handshake. It could even be the first steps towards building something like a holodeck. To create this feeling of touch we use affordable, commercially available parts to pair computer-generated graphics with carefully directed and controlled jets of air./

*Source: thebrighterside*

## TIM COOK JUST REVEALED APPLE'S PLAN FOR EXPANSION INTO AR/VR. IT'S THE OPPOSITE OF FACEBOOK'S

Apple is notably late among its tech peers in the race to the metaverse (augmented reality and virtual reality). In fact, CEO Tim Cook doesn't even like using the word, and its headset is rumored to be at least a year away. Of course, Apple's strategy isn't just about building a headset; the company's primary concern is privacy. And, as it turns out, privacy is a complicated Hydra. With a commitment to privacy first, AR/VR becomes tricky. Even with apps that aren't AR/VR-centric, Apple has invested a lot in keeping them safe. Apple also created a "privacy 'nutrition label' for the app store, where an app has to describe what information they're collecting and why they're collecting it. ... It sounds simple, but it's a profound change."/

*Source: inc*

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# SOCIAL INNOVATION

## AI FOR POSITIVE IMPACT



**MARZIDA MOHD NOOR**

Independent Non Executive Director, Affin Bank Berhad and Heriot-Watt University Malaysia

- Improving accessibility in the environment.
- Programming robots that facilitate personal assistance.
- Automotive AI systems.
- Improved health care and rehabilitation services.

## 04 — What do you think will be the key success factors of using AI for this purpose?

Ensure AI-based tools follow inclusive design principles that include the experiences of persons with disabilities. Lacking inclusive design and accessibility, both physical and digital work environments can be difficult to navigate if one has a disability. In some cases, an individual may feel they have to do two jobs to accomplish one, with the first job being the task of overcoming obstacles so that they can perform their actual job.

## 05 — What type of human-machine engagement model needs to be done ? How do you maintain the balance between machines and humans for this type of beneficiary evaluation and social impact assessment?

AI-powered advances in accessibility, such as predictive text, speech-to-text transcription, and voice and visual recognition have great potential to help organizations eliminate some of these barriers. AI-based systems should become an integral part of HR processes and the workplace, it's important to assess the tools required./

## 01 — Your thoughts and views on the disadvantaged groups on employability issues and what can be done to help them.

Problem statement: How to improve employability of persons with disabilities through better access to equal and quality education, training and job opportunities.

In Malaysia, employment of persons with disabilities is regarded as a charity act and often stereotyped into welfare cases. Persons with disabilities are usually excluded from the mainstream education system hence are marginalized and perceived as less productive. Vocational training centres for young adults with learning disabilities are limited to traditional job-related skills – handicraft, carpentry, sewing, cooking and farming skills. Micro-credentialing and vocational training can be key solutions to improving employability of persons with disabilities – education and skills based training programmes that prepare people with disabilities for a specific job, trade or craft. Technical certifications on cyber-security, etc.

## 02 — The types of schemes that could be considered and formulated by policy makers to help address employment and education issues.

- Government to provide training subsidy/financial aid to person with disabilities eg. life and skills-based training and aids/tools.
- Widen scope of vocational training to include entrepreneurial, digital and technical skills training, photography, multimedia design, etc.
- Promote and incentivise development of AI powered assisted tools and aids for persons with disabilities towards becoming self-sufficient and productive members of the society.
- Incentivise or make it mandatory for companies to be inclusive in their hiring of people with disabilities and including providing tools and aids in the workplace.
- Provide access to a wide range of jobs (outside of traditional jobs) such as application developers, technical specialists, etc.
- Funding research and employing regulation that recognizes the way people with disabilities may both benefit from and be harmed by AI when considering funding, research and regulatory priorities.

## 03 — The role of technology like AI to help institutions perform their tasks to manage the disadvantaged groups across the value chain (upstream / downstream).

Deploy AI enabled tools for education, home and in the workplace so persons with disabilities can be self-sufficient, able to function and contribute productively. Eg. algorithms that read texts and recognize images, devices that transcribe conversations for people with hearing difficulties, home automation that allows one to control the lights, remote window blinds and thermostats, assistive robots and countless solutions that can facilitate independence for people with disabilities.

AI provides a fantastic opportunity to improve the lives of people with disabilities.
- Daily life - opportunities in building modern solutions for people with disabilities by making software and devices smarter and more contextually relevant
- Communication - fundamental to providing equal access to information and opportunities
- Facilitating access to information and communication itself in all media and formats.
- Facilitating decision-making.
  - *To be continued at the left column.*

# 4 FINANCIAL TECHNOLOGIES CHANGING HOW WE HANDLE OUR ASSETS

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*The global financial technology industry was already well on its way to prominence before the Covid-19 pandemic that resulted in forced lockdowns early in 2020. As of now, the combined value of the FinTech market is widely anticipated to hit just shy of $310 billion this year.*

*The number of financial technology companies and individuals affected by the rapid advancement of FinTech onto the center stage is increasingly beyond measure. However, just a few examples can help provide valuable insight. Nowadays, even the average person needs to stay abreast of the future of financial technology transactions.*

The last two years have been sobering in terms of making any surefire predictions. However, the four big-picture trends exemplified below are almost certainly going to gain steam in the coming months and years.

Consumers do not want to miss out on profitable investments simply because they do not "fit" into a traditional portfolio. Nor do they want to compromise their safety. Instead, they are looking to do business with companies that protect their assets and privacy. They want to partner with providers that use technology responsibly to make their lives more convenient and prosperous.

## ALTERNATIVE RETIREMENT INVESTING

Up until very recently, the prevailing paradigm for setting aside money for the Golden Years was to invest in an IRA. You put your money there or into stocks, bonds, or some combination of these three financial technology vehicles. While those investment vehicles are all tried-and-true, not all of them carry the same return on investment (ROI). Additionally, many traditional investment firms tend to adopt a "wait and see" approach to newer opportunities such as financial technology.

Significant ROI can be lost in the meantime as newer offerings are evaluated.

An alternative investment platform is able to pivot quickly and take advantage of newer opportunities — think cryptocurrency or startups — or non-traditional vehicles such as real estate. Users can use their IRA to diversify their assets, always a good strategy. They also take advantage of profitable ventures whose only liability is their newness. For the more adventurous investor, it can make a lot of sense to lean into emerging markets and keep their assets agile.

## ADDRESSING FINTECH PAYMENT SAFETY CONCERNS

We were arguably well on our way to becoming a cashless society prior to 2020. However, mitigating the threat of serious illness brought intense, laser-like focus onto the issue of how we had been handling and exchanging cash for everyday purposes. Understandably, many consumers balked even at using debit cards. The small number of finger pokes it took to enter a four-digit PIN into a checkout keypad proved too many. Increased investment in touchless methods of payment quickly became a fait accompli.

The number of entries in the touchless transaction market includes all of the heavyweight contenders you would expect. Visa, Mastercard, Google Pay, and Apple Pay leap to mind.

One that may have escaped your serious consideration, however, is a third-party payment app is somewhat unique in that it allows customers to make use of their existing credit and debit cards. Some apps even accept Bitcoin. However, in our era of concern over privacy, the apps may offers something sure to appeal to many, namely the ability to make payments to other accounts anonymously.

## ENHANCED RELIABILITY VIA BLOCKCHAIN

For FinTech in the coming year and beyond, there must be a coordinated focus on shoring up privacy and security. Consumers have finally spoken up and demanded that they be in control over who gets access to their data and that companies successfully guard against asset and identity theft. Additionally, consumers burned by data breaches are demonstrating an increasing willingness to go back to writing paper checks. They'd rather do that than put considerable financial assets at risk. Today, consumers are all too ready for law and order to arrive on the FinTech frontier.

Blockchain represents an uncrackable method for moving money and assets around over the internet. The enhanced security has been sufficient to garner heavy investment from Walmart, Microsoft, J.P. Morgan, Amazon, and PayPal, among other heavy-hitters.

In a nutshell, blockchain tech represents a shared, immutable, and permanent record of legitimate financial transactions. Linked by a peer-to-peer network, blockchain is impervious to server failure and (perhaps most significantly) bad actors.

The South Korean conglomerate Samsung is notable for its early adoption of blockchain. It has also concocted creative ways by which they have brought new products and platforms to market. Powered and secured by blockchain, Samsung has already put out an enterprise platform they call Nexledger. They've also developed an electronic wallet for Galaxy phones. Cello Trust is a blockchain platform that traces shipments across the supply chain. Assuming Samsung is able to noticeably boost profits and reduce losses using blockchain, expect other major players to jump quickly on board.

## USING MACHINE LEARNING TO GAMIFY STOCKS

Many of the people at or rapidly approaching retirement age may still be reluctant to embrace AI. For a slightly-younger demographic, AI and ML might conjure up images of Skynet computers constructing armies of murderous robots with Austrian accents. However, those same advanced-tech-averse people do seem to appreciate the convenience of their smartphones. They don't at all mind using website chatbots. They enjoy using devices that "learn" how they typically interact and make suggestions based on their usage patterns.

It's also a safe bet that even though they may have seen too many science fiction films, the average investor would be thrilled to learn that AI can help them increase their return on financial investments. Approximately one year ago, one company received $1.75 million in funding to bring AI to the world of investing.

YOLOrekt relies on the gamification of stocks to predict prices and has attracted considerable attention in FinTech. The software is roughly the equivalent of "educated betting," so outcomes are by no means guaranteed. However, the interface makes stock market bets simple and fun for all./

*Source: readwrite*

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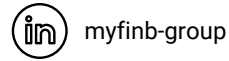
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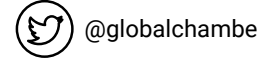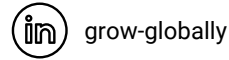
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